

Claim Objections:

Amend the claims as follows:

Claim 4, line 2, change "a" before "engaging lug" to ~~an~~.

Claim 8, line 1, and Claim 18, line 1, change "a" before "engagement" to ~~an~~.

Claim 20, line 1, change "a" before end to ~~an~~.

The changes have been made as required by the examiner.

Claim Rejections - 35 USC Sec. 102:

A. (Fisher) The examiner has rejected Claims 2-6, 9, 13 and 16 under 35 USC 102(b) as anticipated by Fisher. Claims 2-6, and 13 are article claims and were all dependent upon Claim 2. Claim 16 is a method claims and will be discussed in "Remarks".

Cancel Claim 2 and 6-7. Please enter the following new base Claim 21 and its dependent Claim 22:

--21. A connector tool adaptable to engage a cable connector, said tool comprising:
a sleeve comprising a first end, a second end and a gripper channel that extends through said first and second ends; and

a gripper slidably mounted in said gripper channel comprising a handle at a handle end, and fingers at a fingers end that is distal from the handle end, wherein

said sleeve and gripper are slidable relative to each other and when said handle is slid to said first end of said sleeve said fingers project from said second end of said sleeve; and when said handle is slide away from said first end of said sleeve a sufficient degree for said fingers to be substantially drawn into said second end of said sleeve;

said fingers being adapted to form a connector slot for engaging said cable connector; and when said cable connector is engaged in said connector slot and said fingers are substantially drawn into said sleeve, said connector is locked onto said connector tool,

said gripper having a cable slot adapted to accommodate a cable attached to said cable connector when said cable is locked onto said connector tool,

said sleeve having a channel to accommodate said cable attached to said cable connector.--

--22. In the connector tool recited in Claim 21, said cable connector being locked onto said connector tool and having sufficient overlap between the cable slot and the cable channel to permit said cable to slide with said gripper as said gripper and sleeve slide relative to each other.--

Amend Claims 3 - 5 and 13, in the first line of each claim, by changing "2" to -21-, and in each of said claims, please make the following amendments:

Claim 3, first line, before "fingers" insert -said-.

Claims 4 and 5, second line, before "connector" change "the" to -said-.

Claim 13, first line, change "the" to -said-.

B (Poienkot) The examiner has rejected Claims 1, 2, 4-6, and 8-20 under 35 USC 102(e) as anticipated by Poienkot, Jr.. Claims 1, 2, 4-6, and 8-15 are article claims and, except for Claim 1, were all dependent upon Claim 2, which has been cancelled. Method Claims 16-20 will be discussed in "Remarks".

Please cancel Claim 1. Claims 4, 5 and 13 were amended in Section A above.

Amend Claims 8 - 12 and 14-15, in the first line of each claim, by changing "2" to -21-, and please make the following amendments in the claims as indicated:

Claim 8, second line, before "fingers", change "the" to -said-.

Claim 9, first line, before "fingers", change "the" to -said-.

Claim 11, first line, before "gripper", and second line, before "fingers", change "the" to -said-.

Claim 12, first line, before "fingers", change "the" to -said-, and in the second line,

before both occurrences of "sleeve", change "the" to ~~—said—~~.

Claim 14, before each appearance of "fingers" and of "connector", change "the" to ~~—said—~~.

Claim 15, each time "the" appears (twice) change it to ~~—said—~~.

C (Method) The examiner has rejected the method Claims 16-20 on Poiencot, Jr. and method Claim 16 on Fisher, both under Sec. 102, and response to these method claim rejections is found in applicant's "Remarks" below.

Please add the following new method Claim:

--23. A method of holding a cable having a connector comprising the steps of:

engaging the connector and a cable attached to said connector in a connector slot of a connector tool, wherein the connector tool comprises:

a sleeve comprising a first end, a second end and a gripper channel that extends through the first and second ends; and

a gripper mounted in the gripper channel comprising a handle at a handle end, and fingers at a fingers end that is distal from the handle end, wherein the sleeve and the gripper are capable of moving relative to each other such that when the handle is moved to the first end of the sleeve, the fingers project from the second end of the sleeve;

the handle is capable of moving away from the first end of the sleeve to a sufficient degree for the fingers to be substantially drawn into the second end of the sleeve; and

the fingers form the connector slot; and

drawing the fingers into the sleeve so that the connector is reversibly locked onto the connector tool and said cable is engaged in said slot.—